

Menominee Nation News



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Menominee Tribe issued certificate of Self-Regulation

By Yvonne Kaquatosh/NIGC
Menominee Nation News

KESHENA, Wis. – The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) announced its approval of certificates of self-regulation for the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and for The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon in December 2000.

A formal presentation of the certificate to the Menominee Tribe was officially held last Thursday evening, March 15th at a regular meeting of the Menominee Tribal Legislature.

The approvals pertain to the regulation of class II gaming at each tribe's gaming facilities. These approvals are the first certificates issued by the NIGC's Office of Self-Regulation under its two-year old program.

The self-regulation program acknowledges and rewards those tribes who have made a concerted effort to establish strong, independent tribal regulatory bodies. Since the inception of Indian gaming, tribal gaming commissions have become

Role Models in key positions talk to our young



LEADERS IN KEY POSITIONS: Chief Justice Joseph Martin recently spoke with the children in Mr. Jim's class at the Delores K. Boyd Headstart Center as part of a community helper's segment. He shared with the children the different aspects involved with his position before reading a story to them. The children gathered around the special guest and listened closely as he explained in simple terms how rules and disagreements that are handled by parents within the family setting, are similar to those he deals with within the Menominee Tribal Court system. At right, Erin Munoz listens intently as Chief Justice Martin reads 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. Another special guest was Menominee Tribal Clinic Health Administrator Jerry 'Gatie' Waukau. Mr. Waukau spoke with the children on Tuesday, March 13th, Menominee Tribal Chairman Apesanahkwat was unable to attend a scheduled visit on Friday.

See **GAMING** page 2

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Venezuela denies report that it helped guerrilla wanted in slayings get to Cuba

By Fabiola Sanchez
Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) – Venezuela denied a newspaper report Tuesday that it helped a Colombian guerrilla leader, implicated in the 1999 slayings of a Wisconsin woman and two other Americans, get to Cuba for medical treatment.

Minister of the Presidency Elias Jawa insisted in a television interview that Venezuela does not have clandestine contacts with Marxist rebels in neighboring Colombia's civil conflict.

Citing unnamed sources, the Caracas daily El Universal reported that Venezuela allowed German Briceño Suarez, a leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of

Colombia, or FARC, land in a helicopter in the western city of Maracaibo on June 7. Suarez, wounded in an attack by the Colombian army that same day, boarded a plane to Cuba an hour later, El Universal said.

Suarez is wanted by U.S. and Colombian authorities for allegedly participating in the slayings of three Indian rights activists from the United States, the newspaper said. The slayings were a reason the United States broke off contacts with the FARC, Colombia's largest rebel army.

The Americans were seized from the U'wa Indian reservation in eastern Colombia in January 1999, before being shot to death a week

See **SLAYINGS** page 2

Inside this issue

4-6 Education

7-8 Happy Ads

9 Vitals

7, 11-13 Community

14-15 Senior

GAMING

increasingly skilled in regulating gaming activities on Indian land. The self-regulation program provides a process through which tribal gaming commissions may assume greater regulatory responsibility over class II activities.

Commissioner Teresa E. Poust of the NIGC, who heads the self-regulation program, commented, 'It is an honor for me to award the certificate of self-regulation to the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, one of two Tribes in the country to receive the award. Both Tribes have strong, effective regulatory structures deserving of this status.'

She said, in order to qualify for a certificate of self-regulation a tribe must apply for the approval and must show that it meets specific program criteria for a three-year period. The program requires that a tribe demonstrate that it has conducted gaming on a fiscally and economically sound basis and that its gaming operation complies with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, NIGC regulations, and any applicable tribal ordinance or regulations. "'The tribe must have a system for effective and honest accounting of all revenues and a system for background investigation, licensing, and monitoring of all employees of the gaming activity.'"

In an earlier statement, released by NIGC, Lynnette Miller, Executive Director of the Menominee Gaming Commission said, 'I am very, very pleased that the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has had their petition for self-regulation of class II gaming granted by the National Indian Gaming Commission.' 'It is truly an honor to be among the first Indian Tribes in the Nation to be issued such a certificate of self-regulation.'

'The credit for this positive action by the NIGC goes to the Menominee Tribal Government, the Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel, the Menominee Tribal Gaming Commission and all the employees of these three entities who made this positive action happen. I personally thank the staff of the Menominee Tribal Gaming Commission for all their hard work and dedication, without such, this action would not have occurred. I am pleased that our hard work and dedication to a strong regulatory framework has been acknowledged by the NIGC. We pledge to continue our thorough, diligent and careful regulation of our gaming activities to preserve the fairness and integrity of the games for the public and the Tribe consistent with our mission statement.'

Gaming Commission staff and the General Manager of the Casino, James 'Pokey' Reiter attended the formal presentation.

The certificates of self-regulation for the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon took effect on January 1, 2001. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, class II gaming includes bingo, pull-tabs and instant bingo games, and various card games.

Commissioner Poust added, 'Gaming revenues continue to provide much needed services and

infrastructure in Indian country. With strong tribal self-regulation proving to be the best protector of the integrity of the industry, we commend these Tribes for their dedication to strong regulation.'

SLAYINGS

later just across the border in Venezuela.

Ingrid Washinawatok, 41, a Menominee Indian from Wisconsin, Lahe'ena'e Gay, 39, of Hawaii, and Terence Freitas, 24, of Los Angeles, were on a mission to help set up schools for the U'wa.

Both the United States and Colombian Embassies in Caracas declined to comment on the El Universal report.

Venezuela and Colombia already are in a diplomatic row over Venezuela's reluctance to extradite a Colombian hijack suspect.

Venezuela insists that Jose Maria Ballestas, a suspected member of the leftist rebel National Liberation Army, or ELN, be tried for crimes he allegedly committed there before being deported. Ballestas is wanted by Colombia for a 1999 hijacking of a Colombian commercial flight.

That case revived allegations that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's government clandestinely supports Colombian rebels. Chavez and Colombian President Andres Pastrana are scheduled to meet Friday in Guyana City, in central Venezuela.

El Universal also reported Tuesday that Venezuela released another suspected ELN rebel, Rojas Losada, shortly after he was captured on Feb. 3 by military intelligence forces in the western Venezuelan city of San Cristobal.